

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 211016

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Richardson

Art Unit: Unassigned

Application No. Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

For: A METHOD OF RECORDING THE
TEMPERATURE OF PERISHABLE
PRODUCTS IN COLD CHAIN
DISTRIBUTION

CLAIMS PENDING AS OF APRIL 30, 2001

1. A method of monitoring a consignment of goods including the following steps:
measuring a predetermined parameter or parameters of said consignment using a
disposable sender device attachable to said consignment;
transmitting a signal containing data representative of said measured parameter to a
central location;
maintaining a database relating to said consignment at said central location, said
database including said data representative of said measured parameters;
initializing said database to include consignment data for each consignment; and
providing secure communication access to said database to enable monitoring by
enabled users of data available from said database.
2. A method of monitoring according to claim 1 wherein said parameter or
parameters are measured continuously or at predetermined intervals and said data includes time
indicative data associated with said measurements.
3. A method of monitoring according to claim 2 wherein the parameter is the
temperature of the consignment.
4. A method of monitoring according to claim 1 including the step of
communicating the data to an intermediate sender device provided at the location of the

consignment and transmitting the data from the intermediate sender device to said central location.

5. A method of monitoring according to claim 4 including the step of determining the location of the consignment and including data representative of the determined location in said data transmitted to said central location.

6. A method of monitoring according to claim 1 including the step of storing said data in a storage means before transmission to said central location.

7. A method of monitoring according to claim 4 including the step of storing said data in a storage means before transmission to said central location.

8. A method of monitoring according to claim 7 wherein said storage means is provided in said intermediate sender device.

9. A method of monitoring according to claim 1 wherein said database includes set point values associated with said consignment for one or more of said measured parameters and the method includes comparing measured values with corresponding set point values to determine whether the consignment is meeting predetermined conditions.

10. A method of monitoring according to claim 1 wherein said consignment data for each consignment includes dispatch and product data.

11. A method of monitoring according to claim 1 wherein said secure communication access is provided via the Internet.

12. A system for monitoring a consignment of goods including:
a sender device attachable to send consignment including a measurement means for measuring a predetermined parameter or parameters of said consignment;
first communication means for transmitting a signal containing data representative of said measured parameter to a central location;
computer system means for maintaining a database relating to said consignment at said central location said database including said data representative of said measured parameters and wherein said database is initialized to include consignment data for each consignment, and

a secure communication access means for providing access to said database to enable monitoring by enabled users of data available from said database.

13. A system for monitoring according to claim 12 wherein said parameter or parameters are measured continuously or at predetermined intervals and said data includes time indicative data associated with said measurements.

14. A system for monitoring according to claim 13 wherein the parameter is the temperature of the consignment.

15. A system for monitoring according to claim 12 wherein said first communication means is included in said sender device for communicating the data to an intermediate sender device provided at the location of the consignment and a second communication means being included in said intermediate sender device for transmitting the data from the intermediate sender device to said central location.

16. A system for monitoring according to claim 15 including location determining means for determining the location of the consignment and means for including data representative of the determined location in said data transmitted to said central location.

17. A system for monitoring according to claim 16 wherein said location determining means includes a global positioning system.

18. A system for monitoring according to claim 16 wherein said location determining means is included in said intermediate sender device.

19. A system for monitoring according to claim 15 including a storage means for storing said data before transmission to said central location.

20. A system for monitoring according to claim 12 including a storage means for storing said data before transmission to said central location.

21. A system for monitoring according to claim 19 wherein said storage means is provided in said intermediate sender device.

22. A system for monitoring according to claim 12 wherein the sender device is disposable and battery powered.

23. A system for monitoring according to claim 12 wherein the sender device is disposable and inductively powered from the said intermediate sender device.

24. A system for monitoring according to claim 12 wherein said database includes set point values associated with said consignment for one or more of said measured parameters and said computer system means includes comparison means for comparing measured values with corresponding set point values to determine whether the consignment is meeting predetermined conditions.

25. A system for monitoring according to claim 12 wherein said consignment data for each consignment includes dispatch and product data.

26. A system for monitoring according to claim 12 wherein said secure communication access means provides said access via the Internet.

Amendment - Preliminary (Rev. 2/27/2001)